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Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-06
/038 W
----------020352 291957Z /72
R 291000Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8010
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1056

LAGOS FOR CODEL DIGGS, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK UR
SUBJ: DIGGS' CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. CHAIRMAN DIGGS, HIS TWO COMPANIONS AND THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOLODOVNIKOV WHO WAS AN EARLIER ACQUAINTANCE OF THE CONGRESSMAN. THE CONVERSATION OVER FORTY-FIVE MINUTES WAS CORDIAL.

2. SOLODOVNIKOV MADE CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED WHATEVER THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WANTED FOR ZIMBABWE. IF THERE WAS AN ELECTION AND THE PF DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, THEN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BACK IT. IF HOWEVER THE PF DECIDED TO CONTINUE FIGHTING, THE SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORTING IT, ELECTION OR NONE. IN GENERAL, HE SUPPORTS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND AN EFFORT TO PURSUE IT WITH A SECOND MALTA MEETING. THE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST BE BROUGHT
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TOGETHER. SINCE THE PF IS DOING THE FIGHTING, HE SAYS, IT IS THE ONLY ONE WHOSE CONCERNS NEED TO BE MET.

3. THE AMBASSADOR KIDDED SOLODOVNIKOV ABOUT SOVIETS' NEW FOUND SUPPORT FOR THE AAP, SAYING IT WAS WELCOME BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE HELPFUL IN THE FALL OF LAST YEAR. HE THEN BROUGHT UP NAMIBIA, SAYING THAT THERE WAS A CLOSE PARALLEL

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WITH RHODESIA. WE WOULD SHORTLY BE PRESENTING OUR PROPOSALS
AND SWAPO WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE THE WEST IN ITS
SUPPORT BY ACCEPTING THEM. IF IT INSISTED ON SATISFYING ITS
POSITION TO THE LAST DETAIL, IT RISKED LOSING THE OPPORTUNITY
AND, AS IN RHODESIA, SEEING AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IMPOSED.
SOLODVNIKOV INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED, THOUGH
WHETHER HE WAS JUST BEING AMIABLE WAS NOT CLEAR.

4. CHAIRMAN DIGGS MENTIONED LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY AND SOLODOVNIKOV
REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NOW 15,000 AFRICAN STUDENTS THERE.
THERE WERE 60 SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS FROM ZAMBIA FOLLOWING THE
GRZ'S ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST
YEAR.

5. THIS TELEGRAM NOT CLEARED BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS. REQUEST
LAGOS SHOW IT TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE COMMENT. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, CODELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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